

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## **Outcome:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through discussion, writing, illustration, and dramatization.

## **Overview:**

Students will read and explore a folktale from West Africa while utilizing multidisciplinary connections in reading, language arts, geography, social studies, and art.

## **Materials:**

Book, *The Clever Monkey Rides Again*  
Map or globe  
Paper  
Pencils  
Markers  
1 empty 12-egg carton  
2 small containers (to hold beans, stones, or marbles)  
Paint  
Paint brushes  
Newspaper  
48 beans, stones, or marbles

## **Optional:**

Hamilton, Martha, and Mitch Weiss. "Rabbit's Riding Horse." *Through the Grapevine*. Little Rock: August House, 2001. 68-70.  
DeSpain, Pleasant. "Lindy and the Forest Giant." *Tales of Tricksters*. Little Rock: August House, 2001. 33-39.

## **Assessment Tools:**

"Story Summary" worksheet  
"Alike and Different" worksheet  
"Singular Possessive Nouns" worksheet  
"CL Blends Riddles" worksheet  
"Jungle Animal Word Search" worksheet

## **INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN**

### **Introduction:**

#### **Materials:**

Map or globe

#### **Directions:**

- Teacher asks students what they know about Africa.
- Students locate Africa on map or globe.

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## **Introduction cont.:**

- Teacher informs students:
  - They will be reading a folktale from West Africa.
  - Storytelling is a very important part of African culture.
  - Stories are passed down from grandparents and parents to teach lessons to children.
  - African storytellers often dress in elaborate costumes and use musical instruments such as drums to help tell the story.
  - A well-known type of African story is the trickster tale.
  - Trickster stories are told to teach children that even the weakest creature can use brainpower to find his or her way out of a seemingly hopeless situation. The lesson is that we can overcome tough situations by thinking and using our imaginations when the odds are against us.
  - In some parts of Africa, trickster characters include the rabbit, turtle, and monkey. These characters outsmart the larger, stronger characters around them.
  - Some trickster characters play tricks on others just for the fun of pulling off a trick. In these tales, the lesson is that this is **not** the way to act in your community.
- Teacher distributes the books and students take turns reading one page of the book aloud.

## **Discussion Questions for Assessing Students' Comprehension:**

- Where were the animals gathered? Why do you think that was their gathering spot?
- What had the lion done to Elephant? Rhino? Giraffe?
- The lion was acting like a bully. Have you ever been bullied?
- Where was the monkey when he heard the other animals talking about the lion?
- What did the monkey tell the other animals?
- Where did the lion find the monkey?
- Why do you think that the monkey was sitting there?
- Why was he far from the watering hole?
- What did the monkey say when the lion confronted him about what the other animals said?
- Why did the lion let the monkey ride on his back?
- Why did the lion help the monkey make a saddle? How did they make it?
- Why did the lion let the monkey tie vines around his neck?
- Why did the monkey give the lion a big branch?
- What did the monkey do as they got close to the watering hole?
- What did the animals do when they saw the monkey riding on the lion's back?
- Why did the lion run away? Where did he go?
- How was the monkey clever?
- Why is this story a trickster tale?
- What is the lesson in this story?
- How does this story teach the character traits of citizenship (being a good member of a community), courage (strength of mind to be able to be brave), and resourcefulness (being able to deal with problems in a clever way)?
- Do you think that the other animals ever found out what the monkey had done?
- Why do you think the story is called *The Clever Monkey Rides Again*?

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## **Language Arts:**

- Story Summary

### **Materials:**

“Story Summary” worksheet

### **Directions:**

- Teacher explains that a story summary tells what happens at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story.
- Teacher summarizes another story that the class has read as an example of how to summarize a story.
- Students summarize other stories that the class has read.
- Students complete the story summary sheet for *The Clever Monkey Rides Again*.

**Beginning:** The animals were sad because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Middle:** The monkey met with the lion and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**End:** The monkey rode on the lion’s back and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- **Diary Entry**

### **Materials:**

Paper

Pencils

### **Directions:**

- Students pretend that they are characters from the story such as the monkey, lion, rhino, giraffe, elephant, or another jungle animal.
- Students each write a diary entry from that animal’s point of view to tell about the day that the monkey tricked the lion.
- Teacher reminds students that the other characters may not know that the monkey used trickery.
- Students can use the book as a spelling reference.

- **Time Line**

### **Materials:**

Paper

Pencils

Markers

### **Directions:**

- Students re-read the story with a partner, alternating pages.
- Students create a time line of story events.
- Students write a sentence for each event.
- Students illustrate the time line.

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## **Language Arts cont.:**

### • **Newspaper Article**

#### Materials:

Lined paper

Pencils

Markers or crayons

#### **Directions:**

- Teacher tells students the monkey wants to let all of the animals in his part of the jungle know that the lion is gone and that he is a hero. He writes a newspaper article so that all of the animals can read all about it.
- Students:
  1. Write a newspaper article from the monkey's point of view.
  2. Include who, what, when, where, why, and how in the article.
  3. Name the newspaper.
  4. Draw a picture to go with the article.

### • **Alike and Different**

#### Materials:

"Alike and Different" worksheet

Pencils

**Directions:** For each pair of animals, write one way that the pair is alike and one way that they are different.

1. monkey / lion

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

2. zebra / giraffe

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

3. elephant / tiger

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

4. crocodile / duck

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

5. rhino / hippo

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

Which two animals do you think are most alike? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Which two animals do you think are least alike? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## Language Arts cont.:

### • **Singular Possessive Nouns**

An activity for differentiated learning

#### Materials:

“Singular Possessive Nouns” worksheet

Pencils

Lined paper

Book

#### **Directions:**

- Teacher informs students:
  - To make a singular noun possessive, add /'s/. Give a number of common examples.
  - There are several examples of singular possessive nouns in the book, *The Clever Monkey Rides Again*.
  - They will re-read the story and find the singular possessive nouns.
    1. Page 2: Elephant’s trunk
    2. Page 3: Rhino’s horn
    3. Page 3: Giraffe’s spots
    4. Page 16: lion’s back
    5. Page 28: lion’s ears
- Teacher divides students into three groups.
  - Group A: Students re-read the story with the teacher and complete the “Singular Possessive Nouns” worksheet.
    1. Mary\_\_\_ shoe
    2. Tom\_\_\_ book
    3. Zebra\_\_\_ stripes
    4. Rhino\_\_\_ eyes
    5. Elephant\_\_\_ large ears
    6. Giraffe\_\_\_ long neck
    7. Lion\_\_\_ mane
    8. Monkey\_\_\_ tail
  - Group B: Students re-read the story with a partner. Students copy the singular possessive nouns and note the page number. Students write eight other possessive nouns.
  - Group C: Students re-read the story with a partner. Students copy the singular possessive nouns and note the page number. Students write eight sentences with singular possessive nouns.

## Phonics:

### • **/cl/ Blends Riddles**

#### Materials:

“/cl/ Blend Riddles” worksheet

Pencils

- Teacher informs students that the clever monkey loves riddles. All of the answers to his riddles begin with the letters /cl/.

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## **Phonics cont.:**

### **/cl/ Blend Riddles cont.**

**Directions:** Solve each riddle with a word from the word bank.

1. Use this to tell time. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The shirt is not dirty. It is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You find this in the sky. \_\_\_\_\_
4. How do you get up a tree? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The monkey is smart. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. This person works in the circus. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A sharp hooked nail on an animal's foot is a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Put your clothes away in the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What noise is made by striking your hands together? \_\_\_\_\_
10. You use this to play golf. \_\_\_\_\_

Word bank: clean, cloud, climb, clever, clown, clap, clock, club, claw, closet

## **Dramatic Arts:**

### **• Pantomime**

- Teacher informs students:
  - Pantomime is an important part of African storytelling.
  - Good storytellers use body language and facial expressions to help tell a story.
- Teacher and students review the illustrations in the book and note the characters' body language and facial expressions. Students note how the illustrator has made these characters appear human.
- Students work in small groups to pantomime the story.
- Teacher informs students that African storytellers sometimes use musical instruments such as drums to help tell a story.
- Students pretend that their desk or table is a drum.
- Teacher asks students how they could use drum music to add to different parts of the story?

## **Art:**

### **• Make an African Game**

#### **Materials:**

1 empty 12-egg carton

2 small containers (to hold beans, stones, or marbles)

Paint

Paint brushes

Newspaper

48 beans, stones, or marbles

- Teacher informs students:
  - Mancala is a game that is played by many people in Africa.
  - It has other names such as Wari and Ayo.
  - There are many variations of the game.

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## Art cont.:

### **Make an African Game cont.**

- The game boards are similar in that they have shallow holes and use small game pieces called seeds.
- Game boards have different numbers of holes and the rules vary.
- In some parts of Africa, people play by digging shallow holes in the ground to serve as their game board.
- The object of the game is for two players to compete against each other to get as many seeds as they can before one of the players clears his or her side of the board of all of the seeds.

### **Directions:**

1. Students separate the top and the bottom parts of the egg carton. Students use the bottom for the game and save the top so that they can cover the game and store the seeds inside of it.
2. Students paint the egg carton and let it dry.
3. Students place the egg carton lengthwise between 2 players. The (egg) cups closest to a player are his/her cups.
4. The small containers are placed at the ends of the carton. The container to the right of a player belongs to that player. It is called his or her store.
5. Students set up the board by placing 4 seeds in each cup. (Do not put any seeds in the store.)
6. The first player picks up all four seeds from a cup on his or her side and starts with the first cup to the right (of the cup the seeds were taken from), placing one seed in each of the following four cups.
7. If a player reaches the end of his or her side of the board with seeds remaining, a seed is placed in his or her store. If there are more seeds, they are placed in order in the cups on the opponent's side. The player should *not* drop a seed in his or her opponent's store. (Play goes in a counter-clockwise direction.)
8. If a player's last seed ends in his or her store, that player gets another turn.
9. The game ends when a player has cleared all of the seeds from his or her side. That player keeps all of the seeds that are left on his or her opponent's side.
10. The players count the seeds in their stores and the player with the most seeds wins the game.
11. There are many variations in the rules. After the students are comfortable playing with the above rules, research other rules and try playing the game with different rules.
12. After playing the game, teacher asks the students what skill African parents teach their children by playing this game. (Planting seeds for crops)

### **Extension Activities:**

#### • **Jungle Animal Word Search**

##### Materials:

“Jungle Animal Word Search” worksheet

Pencils or crayons

**Directions:** Find and circle the words from the Word Bank in the puzzle.

z	q	x	w	o	v	c	c
d	l	i	o	n	d	p	r
r	a	z	e	b	r	a	o
s	g	n	l	u	a	w	c
t	i	g	e	r	m	m	o
h	r	c	p	r	o	y	d
i	a	r	h	i	n	o	i
p	f	b	a	r	k	i	l
p	f	d	n	g	e	s	e
o	e	f	t	h	y	k	c

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

## Extension Activities cont:

### • Compare and Contrast

- Teacher reads “Rabbit’s Riding Horse” on Page 68 in *Through the Grapevine* by Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss. In this tale from Puerto Rico, the rabbit is the trickster character. Rabbit’s tricks always make Tiger look like a fool. When the people in town said that they were afraid of Tiger, Rabbit told them that Tiger lets him (Rabbit) use him as a riding horse. In much the same way that the monkey tricked the lion, Rabbit tricks Tiger into giving him a ride on his back. Students compare and contrast this tale with a similar plot with *The Clever Monkey Rides Again*.
- Teacher reads “Lindy and the Giant” on Page 33 in *Tales of Tricksters* by Pleasant DeSpain. This folktale from Sweden tells of a forest giant who bullies the townspeople. A clever little girl outwits the giant and makes him re-pay what he has taken. The giant moves away and the villagers live in peace. Students compare and contrast this tale with *The Clever Monkey Rides Again*.

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Story Summary

**Directions:** Write a summary of *The Clever Monkey Rides Again* by filling in what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

**Beginning:** The animals were sad because \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Middle:** The monkey met with the lion and \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**End:** The monkey rode on the lion's back and \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Alike and Different

**Directions:** For each pair of animals, write one way that the pair is alike and one way that they are different.

1. **monkey / lion**

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **zebra / giraffe**

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **elephant / tiger**

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **crocodile / duck**

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **rhino / hippo**

Alike: \_\_\_\_\_

Different: \_\_\_\_\_

Which two animals do you think are most alike? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Which two animals do you think are least alike? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Singular Possessive Nouns

**Directions:** Add /s/ to each singular noun to make it possessive.

1. Mary\_\_\_ shoe
2. Tom\_\_\_ book
3. Zebra\_\_\_ stripes
4. Rhino\_\_\_ eyes
5. Elephant\_\_\_ large ears
6. Giraffe\_\_\_ long neck
7. Lion\_\_\_ mane
8. Monkey\_\_\_ tail

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## /cl/ Blend Riddles

**Directions:** Solve each riddle with a word from the Word Bank.

1. Use this to tell time. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The shirt is not dirty. It is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You find this in the sky. \_\_\_\_\_
4. How do you get up a tree? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The monkey is smart. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. This person works in the circus. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A sharp hooked nail on an animal's foot is a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Put your clothes away in the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What noise is made by striking your hands together? \_\_\_\_\_
10. You use this to play golf. \_\_\_\_\_

**Word Bank:** clean    cloud    climb    clever    clown  
                  clap    clock    club    claw    closet

# THE CLEVER MONKEY RIDES AGAIN

Second Grade

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Jungle Animal Word Search

Directions: Find and circle the words from the Word Bank in the puzzle.

Word Bank: crocodile   elephant   giraffe   hippo   lion  
monkey   rhino   tiger   zebra

z	q	x	w	o	v	c	c
d	l	i	o	n	d	p	r
r	a	z	e	b	r	a	o
s	g	n	l	u	a	w	c
t	i	g	e	r	m	m	o
h	r	c	p	r	o	t	d
i	a	r	h	i	n	o	i
p	f	b	a	r	k	i	l
p	f	d	n	g	e	g	e
o	e	f	t	h	y	k	c